

Minutes of the Community Development Committee
Public Meeting
November 10, 2010
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Attendance:

Present: Members: Claude Tellier (CT), Mary Jane Laus (MJL), Jana McClure (JM), Nancy Gregg (NG), Staff Nate Malloy (NM), Roy Rosenblatt (RR) consultant, SB Liaison, Alisa Brewer (AB).

Guests: Linda Chalfant (LC), Director of LSSE; Judith Roberts (JR), Literacy Project; Renee Moss (RM) Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Stacey Lecuivre, Program Director; Hwei-Ling Greeney (H-LG)

Call to Order

4:31 p.m.

Announcements

None

Minutes

None

New Business

The Committee Co-chairs discussed their meeting with the Town Manager and staff, and the suggestion that the childcare tuition assistance program sponsored by LSSE receive level funding, \$37,000, to support the thirty or so families that need this subsidy. The Literacy Project, although eligible and preliminarily recommended by the Community Development Committee (CDC), seeks to expand their program. The co-chairs also discussed the possibility of reducing funding for the homeless shelter to reach the \$37,000 needed for the childcare. NM noted that even if the CDC wanted to fund both the Literacy Project and the childcare tuition assistance program that would be a total of six social service activities when the statute allows funding of up to only five activities. It was also reiterated that the CDC makes their recommendations to the Town Manager, who in turn can reprioritize and shuffle projects before the Town submits its application to the state.

JR, representing the Literacy Project, responded to questions asked of her by the CDC and town staff. The program's budget was clarified, as well as the portions that would be funded by CDBG. JR said that the funding would help hire an extra staff person who would serve as a 'guidance counselor' to the program participants.

LC, on behalf of LSSE, explained that the childcare tuition assistance request had been modified from the original proposal, and is seeking funding to maintain the current level of subsidies, which supports about 30 families. These families are low- and moderate-income, with the childcare program keeping parents employed and preventing them from becoming unemployed and risk losing their housing. Just as important, the program educates the children as it keeps them safe after school.

The CDC discussed the proposed changes to their preliminary recommendations, and agreed that the childcare tuition assistance program would be included on the list of recommendations while the Literacy Project would no longer be a priority.

Material Distributed at Meeting (Available upon request in the Planning Department)

Agenda

Chart of project proposals

List of preliminary recommendations by CDC

Literacy Project clarifications and letters of support from participants

LSSE-revised proposal and budget and chart showing need of families

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.